

# Western Montana MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Riverfront Counseling & Support Center  
209 North 10th, Suite A • Hamilton, MT 59840  
(406) 532-9101 • (406) 363-4498 (FAX)

June 29, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

agenda  
13<sup>th</sup> @ 0900

Re: Contract between Ravalli County and Riverfront Counseling & Support Center

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to propose renewal of the Contract which has existed for the past 18 months between Ravalli County and Riverfront Counseling & Support Center. The original purpose of this contract was to cut some of the costs involved in commitments for the County Attorney's Office because Western Montana Mental Health Center began charging a flat rate per evaluation (\$225) in 2006 to Counties which were not providing a County contribution of \$1 per capita to the community mental health centers. This change was made in approximately October of 2005 and this created an unexpected expense to the County Attorney's Office which had not budgeted for this higher evaluation rate. Additionally, our valley was on the heels of several suicides in the Ravalli County Detention Center and Sheriff Hoffman and I believed we could approach that issue from a preventative stance if we incorporated more diverse programs in the detention center and developed appropriate screening tools to be used during the intake process for inmates at the Detention Center. The contract has proven to be successful in both areas, but at a cost to Riverfront Counseling and Support Center.

For the past two fiscal years Riverfront Counseling & Support has experienced a financial loss from this contract due to underestimating the amount of assessments/commitments and due to providing a financial break to Ravalli County on the charges for services. The loss for the last 6 months of FY 06 was \$6,730.50; the loss for FY 07 was \$13,304.70~.

I have attached copies of the last 2 contract period's cost projections, along with a proposed cost projection for FY 08. The rates for both assessments and mental health commitments have been raised for the new fiscal year. The higher cost for assessments does reflect the current Medicaid rate for an assessment which lasts longer than one hour; typically assessments take 2 – 3 hours with write-up. The higher cost for commitments reflects the time and documentation involved in this process for the MHP. The other three line items remain the same on this cost analysis.

There has been approximately a 25% increase in the number of referrals and proceedings for commitments in the first 6 months of this calendar year. We have been unable to account for this drastic increase, but it has been highly time consuming for the MHPs (mental health professional persons that do the commitment evaluations and legal proceedings) and disruptive to the regularly scheduled clients of our MHPs. Clearly,

Page 2  
Ravalli County Commissioners  
June 29, 2007

there is a demonstrated need to provide these services in a mutually beneficial and streamlined manner; consequently, I am proposing that Ravalli County Commissioners consider carefully the new financial figures I have provided to compensate Riverfront Counseling & Support Center at the Medicaid rate in order to eliminate our office once again providing services at a significant financial loss. Riverfront Counseling Center is a non-profit agency, however we cannot continue to operate at a financial loss and keep our doors open to provide services to this community. If the County is not able to adequately fund contractual services with Riverfront, other options would include returning to the old system of doing evaluations on a fee for service basis and dropping the additional services at the Detention Center, or doing an RFP on the services provided through this contract to see if there is another agency or group of individuals that can provide the services for the County at a lower rate.

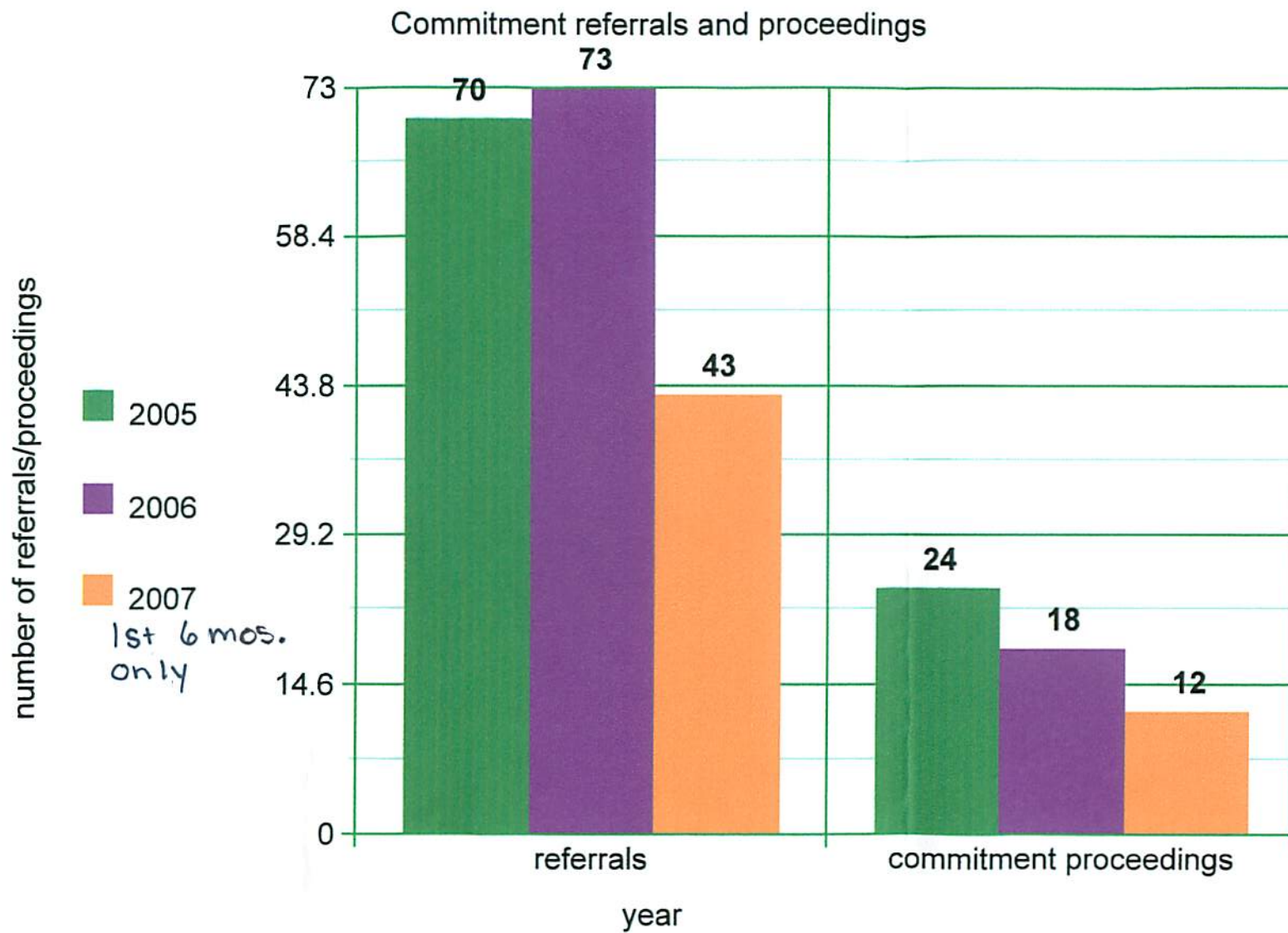
I would like to take this opportunity to once again state that Riverfront may be more willing to absorb a financial loss for this contract (a reasonable in-kind measure) if Ravalli County contributed \$1 per capita to the State of Montana which is in fact an investment and returned to this County threefold by a Medicaid match. Ravalli County constituents deserve to have a reasonable return on their County dollars and when the County Commissioners believe providing a .43 per capita contribution to their constituents is sufficient, it does not behoove our mental health center to continue to bear the brunt of this burden.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberlie Miller".

Kimberlie Miller, MSW  
Office Director



Ravalli County Attorney's Office

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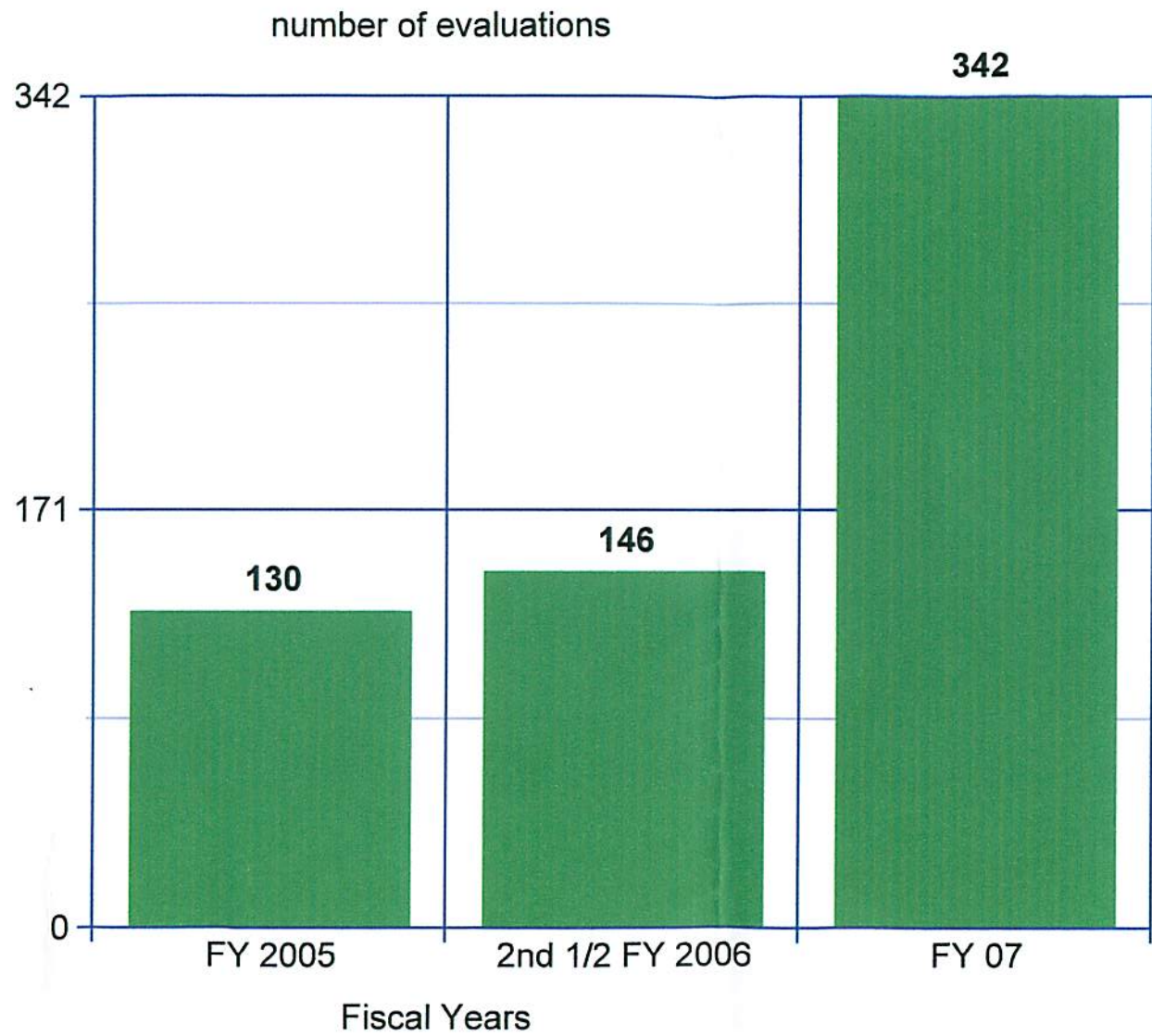
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Number of Evaluations

■ Years



Riverfront Counseling

## Contract Mental Health Services

Contract Period 7/1/07 - 6/30/08

This worksheet has been developed to estimate and justify costs for the contract period. The Commissioners and other County Officials will utilize this worksheet to assist with evaluating proposals for service. It is understood that cost listed are estimates and only used as a guideline in establishing the agreed upon contract amount.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Units of Service</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Hourly/Unit Rate</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Estimated number of request made during contract period	Estimated amount of time required to deliver service requested	Projected cost per hour or unit for requested service	
Assessments	320.00	2.00	Medicaid rate 82.80 \$	52,992.00
Mental Health Commitments	30.00	6.00	\$ 95.00 \$	17,100.00
On-Call Availability	365.00	1.50	\$ 25.00 \$	13,687.50
Mental Health Education	28.00	1.00	\$ 50.00 \$	1,400.00
Group Counseling (Jail)	96.00	2.00	\$ 60.00 \$	11,520.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$	<b>96,699.50</b>

### Services Include:

Assessments provided as needed and requested by County Attorney and/or Detention Center.

Mental Health Commitments including assessment by 2 Mental Health Professionals.

Availability of a Mental Health Professional able to respond within \_\_\_ hours.

Development of Treatment Plans for Detention Center prisoners identified as having specific mental health needs.

1 Mental Health Training per month as requested by Ravalli County. This could include training in specific mental health issues or training on identifying and/or accessing established mental health services.

Group Counseling provided in the Detention Center twice a week.

### Contract Mental Health Services

Contract period 1/1/06 to 6/30/06 (6 months)

This worksheet has been developed to estimate and justify costs for the contract period. The Commissioners and other County Officials will utilize this worksheet to assist with evaluating proposals for service. It is understood that cost listed are estimates and only used as a guideline in establishing the agreed upon contract amount.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Units of Service</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Hourly/Unit Rate</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Estimated number of request made during contract period	Estimated amount of time required to deliver service requested	Projected cost per hour or unit for requested service	
Assessments	60.00	2.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 8,400.00
Mental Health Commitments	18.00	6.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 9,720.00
On-Call Availability	182.00	1.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,825.00
Treatment Plans (Jail)	30.00	1.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,500.00
Mental Health Education	6.00	1.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 300.00
Group Counseling (Jail)	48.00	2.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 6,720.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 33,465.00</b>

### Contract Mental Health Services

Contract period 7/1/06 to 6/30/07 (12 months)

This worksheet has been developed to estimate and justify costs for the contract period. The Commissioners and other County Officials will utilize this worksheet to assist with evaluating proposals for service. It is understood that cost listed are estimates and only used as a guideline in establishing the agreed upon contract amount.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Units of Service</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Hourly/Unit Rate</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Estimated number of request made during contract period	Estimated amount of time required to deliver service requested	Projected cost per hour or unit for requested service	
Assessments	210.00	2.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 29,400.00
Mental Health Commitments	26.00	6.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 14,040.00
On-Call Availability	365.00	1.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 13,687.50
Mental Health Education	28.00	1.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,400.00
Group Counseling (Jail)	96.00	2.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 11,520.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 70,047.50</b>

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